choice of the Board fell. The case for communal justice will be weakened if too much attention is bestowed on the claims of individuals. Apart from complaints which may be based upon legitimate grounds there has been an insidious attempt made in certain quarters to belittle the whole scheme and to persuade certain backward communities that not enough has been done for them. It is for the leaders of such communities to warn their brethren against this kind of insidious propaganda which is being carried on with ulterior motives. The figures that I have given are the most effective answer to any criticism about the scheme as a whole or its working in practice. Members of certain backward communities have only to compare the figures of recruitment during the last 9 months with what prevailed in the past to satisfy themselves whether justice is being meted out to them.

Council Resolutions and Government.

27. One other important matter in which the wishes of this House have been carried out is the appointment of the Franchise Committee. It was only in the last budget session that the Council urged upon Government the need for lowering the franchise. A very good committee, presided over by the ex-Chief Judge, Mr. Sahasranama Ayyar, is now engaged in examining the whole question of franchise and I am hoping that their report would be available in time to enable Government to carry on the normal election programme during next year.

28. In the two matters referred to above, namely the appointment of the Staff Selection Board and the institution of a Franchise Committee, Government have shown their readiness to respond to reasonable demands made by the Legislative Council. Within the last two years that I have been in charge of the Administration of the State, I have accepted a number of major recommendations of the Legislative Council and have given effect to them. The complaint relating to the licensing of arecanut markets, the appointment of the Retrenchment Committee, the appointment of the Franchise Committee, the institution of Debt Conciliation Board, publication of text books under the auspices of Government, the establishment of the Land Mortgage Bank and the institution of the Staff Selection Board and the recognition of communal representation in the services, are but a few examples of the major recommendations of this House which have been given effect to by Government. In the light of this record, I would leave it to the public to judge the validity of the criticism

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that one often hears that Government is unresponsive to the demands of the people's representatives.

Federation.

29. I shall now conclude my address with a few words on the problem of Indian Federation. During the period under review the question of accession of the State to the All-India Federation was closely scrutinised. A Special Officer was appointed to study the problem and tender advice to Government. I had also the benefit of attending the various meetings convened from time to time by the Chamber of Princes. I was invited to become a member of the Informal Committee of Ministers presided over by the Rt. Hon'ble Sir Akbar Hydari and I had also the privilege of working as a member of the Constitution Committee presided over by His Highness the Maharajadhiraj of Patiala. My attendance at these meetings along with our Legal Adviser was of great benefit. The State got the benefit of legal opinions obtained from eminent counsels like Sir Walter Monckton, Mr. Morgan, K. C. and Judge Wadhams. Besides these, the collective opinion of experienced statesmen in charge of the administration of the Indian States on matters common to the States as a whole was also available to me in the study of this problem. After collecting all these materials Government decided to consult representative leaders of public opinion in the State before submitting the final memorandum to the Government of India. Accordingly a non-official committee of 9 members was constituted and all the relevant materials relating to the study of the problem of Federation were placed before this committee. On every material point on which the Government had to express their point of view the opinion of the non-official committee was taken and the final memorandum which we sent to the Government of India is based entirely on the advice tendered by the non-official committee. The point of view of the State on the question of Federation may therefore be said to represent not merely the point of view of the Government but of the representatives of the people as well. Hon'ble Members who served on that committee will bear me out when I say that there was no conflict between these two points of view. In fact, there cannot possibly be any conflict, because the question that we had to deal with related to safeguarding the interests of the State on which there cannot be much diversity of opinion. The answer of the Government of India on the reservations and safeguards that we have made is now awaited before a final decision is taken whether the State will join the All-India Federation.

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